Commission ha'e decided not to extend the Border Area Devt-.iopment Programme to TibeiJCliirta border.

Offer of unconditional talks with the ultras in dilerer.t stares

2S61. SHRI PARAG CHAL1HA; Will PRIME MINISTER be p[1] cased to state:

(a) whether ultras of J&K have responded to PM.'s recent effer r-i talks;

of so. the fetalis theteof;

it, whether ofter of "unconditional talts" is also be'.vj? extended to the ultras of odier States of the Union;

id) ii so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any negotiations have b-en held; and

(f) if so, the det results?

THE MINISTER O[u] STATE 'N THE ISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLiC TS AND PENSIONS AND TUP. MINISTER OF ST->TE IN THE MINISTRY OP PARLIAMENT! ARY AFFAIRS (SHRt S. R BALASUBRAMONTYANV. (i; and (b) During his IK on 26-27 July, 1997, (he Priror Minister had trade an arval nth ol the State who have joined the militant rnatv

© and during his visti to the north eastern states in mar 197 the minister had relieted government willenmess to hold unconditiona takes with underground tc ments cil of Nagaland has responded to the ' offer and after preliminary talks w^th them, it Fas been agreed to cease fire for 3 months w.e.f. 1st August 1997 and embark upon political level discussions-Government are also in touch with other insurgent Naga groups which hav» also committed to suspend their activities.

Amamafh Yatra under BSF Escort

2562. SYED SIBTEY RAZE Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether death of one pilgrim and injury to eighteen Amarnath pilgrims in an explosion in a hotel at B.mihal on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway has been reported in the recentpast despite taking very foolpoof security steps;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any gx-gratia payment has since been paid to the families of those killed and injured;

<d) whether Government propose V rach pilgrim visits in future under the escort of Border Security Force; and

(el if so, the details thereof and if not. the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN TIE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL. PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF \TF IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS <SHRI S. R. BALASUBRAMONI-

(c) No Sir, it is not a fact marnath Yatra were humed due to the explosion On 23.7.97. *m* TED blast took plane n Hotel KaO*sh. Banihal in whicl ns susttmed injuries inclod "•net of the hotel, who latr ed to hi* injuries Out the injured two were r